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REMARKS

Receipt of the Office Action of February 16, 2005 is gratefully acknowledged.

Claims 9 - 16 have been presented for examination. These have been examined and rejected as follows: (1) Claims 9, 11 and 12 as anticipated by Ichino under 35 USC 102(b); and (2) Claims 10 and 13 - 16 are unpatentable over Ichino in view of Feller under 35 USC 103(a).

Both rejections have been carefully considered. Applicant, however, cannot agree that any of claims 9 - 16 are rejectable over Ichino or over Ichino in view of Feller. Accordingly, the noted rejections are respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to a sonic- or ultrasonic flowmeter which is suited for replacing a differential pressure flowmeter. The replacement of differential pressure flowmeters is an industry objective. However, there is also an industry reluctance because of the costs and efforts involved in the replacement. With the present invention this reluctance is removed because the sonic- or ultrasonic flowmeter according to the present invention has the same dimensions (length and diameter of the pipe segment, connectors, etc.) as existing differential pressure flowmeters. This allows for direct replacement of the differential pressure flowmeters with the sonic- or ultrasonic flowmeters resulting in the present invention.

Claim 9 defines this feature of the invention whereby the pipe segment has "a diameter, which complies with an industry standard for pipe diameters that are used in differential pressure flow measurement." It also has a "length, which is equal to a standard lengthof a differential pressure flowmeter."

Neither Ichino nor Feller disclose or suggest the replacement feature of the invention here claimed. Without this teaching it is respectfully submitted that these

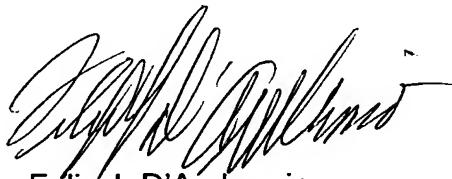
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references, no matter how they are combined can result in the present invention as claimed.

Claim 9 has been amended formally only, as is claim 15. In addition, formal amendments have been made to pages 7 - 9 of the specification.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and re-examination are respectfully requested and claims 9 - 16 found allowable.

Respectfully submitted



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